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Area Wage Survey
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, TX-LA
May 1985

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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
June 1985

This summary presents results of a May 1985 survey of occupational wages and supplementary benefits in the Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, which consist of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, TX; and Calcasieu Parish, LA. This is 1 of 99 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 102 establishments employing 38,471 workers was selected to represent 366 establishments employing 74,037 workers in the area. (See table 5 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Tables 2, 3, and 4 present information on paid holidays, vacation pay provisions, and health, insurance, and pension plans for nonsupervisory production and related workers and office workers.

Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

New or revised occupational descriptions are being introduced in this survey for word processors, motor vehicle mechanics (formerly maintenance mechanics, motor vehicles), and material handling laborers.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, SC, July 1985

Occupation[2]	Number of workers	Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																						
		Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 9.50	9.50 – 10.00	10.00 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.50	11.50 – 12.00	12.00 – 12.50	12.50 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00
Secretaries	127	8.07	7.53	6.75– 9.62	-	-	1	-	2	7	16	16	21	12	13	2	4	13	7	2	1	6	1	1	2	-	1
Secretaries I	37	6.77	6.25	5.89– 7.33	-	-	1	-	2	7	10	5	3	2	3	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries II	8	9.56	9.23	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Secretaries III	66	8.06	7.49	6.88– 9.62	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	11	15	7	7	1	-	10	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries IV	14	10.34	10.17	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	2	-	1	2	1	-	2	-	1
Word processors	9	5.93	6.08	- -	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Word processors I	9	5.93	6.08	- -	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	70	5.13	5.25	4.56– 5.50	-	-	13	13	22	16	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators	47	6.07	5.73	5.50– 6.04	-	-	-	8	3	20	7	4	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	37	5.99	5.53	5.33– 6.04	-	-	-	8	3	15	7	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators II	10	6.36	6.29	- -	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	59	7.28	7.28	5.58– 8.85	-	10	-	-	1	6	4	-	10	4	7	2	3	2	3	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-
Computer operators I	35	5.84	5.63	3.95– 7.12	-	10	-	-	1	8	4	-	9	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	19	8.65	8.00	7.50– 9.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	1	3	2	3	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-
Drafters	35	9.84	10.28	9.95–10.28	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	1	19	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-
Electronics technicians	96	12.35	13.05	11.55–13.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	2	5	5	1	-	1	9	3	10	36	13	1
Electronics technicians I	15	8.36	8.84	6.92– 9.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	2	2	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electronics technicians II	57	12.76	13.05	11.76–13.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	1	9	3	3	36	-	-
Electronics technicians III	24	13.85	14.52	12.70–14.63	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	13	1
Maintenance carpenters	16	10.42	9.35	9.35–11.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	-	1	1	-	2	2	-	-	1	-
Maintenance electricians	188	11.24	10.41	8.86–14.05	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43	9	19	-	24	-	1	10	1	12	5	63	1
Maintenance painters	7	8.08	8.60	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintenance machinists	51	10.73	11.21	8.16–12.74	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	4	2	4	-	-	2	4	5	12	-	4	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	315	10.92	10.41	9.25–11.55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	64	7	13	12	74	13	1	53	-	7	-	70	-
Motor vehicle mechanics	157	9.92	9.00	8.16–11.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	60	2	25	3	12	-	1	12	-	33	-	5	-
General maintenance workers	186	6.81	7.70	5.72– 8.16	2	7	18	11	6	9	23	6	12	6	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers	638	8.19	7.50	7.25–10.10	18	21	18	16	15	5	36	-	188	30	72	61	-	-	66	2	-	36	-	-	-	56	-
Truckdrivers, light truck	78	4.14	3.95	3.50– 4.63	18	21	13	16	3	4	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	419	8.10	7.50	7.25– 8.85	-	-	3	-	6	-	9	-	185	30	72	61	-	-	14	-	-	36	-	-	-	3	-
Shipping packers	40	5.46	4.80	4.60– 6.23	-	6	-	17	2	1	8	-	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	62	5.64	5.87	4.60– 6.50	-	3	10	7	5	14	5	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	182	6.42	6.80	4.35– 7.81	-	19	29	24	5	2	4	18	4	37	28	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guards	705	4.84	4.46	3.45– 6.00	211	83	64	21	100	38	77	29	50	17	7	1	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guards I	705	4.84	4.46	3.45– 6.00	211	83	64	21	100	38	77	29	50	17	7	1	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	730	4.07	3.75	3.35– 4.66	290	134	102	109	65	3	6	3	2	3	-	1	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Also excluded are performance bonuses and lump-sum payments of the type negotiated in the auto and aerospace industries, as well as profit-sharing payments, attendance bonuses, Christmas or year-end bonuses, and other nonproduction bonuses. Cost of living allowances and incentive payments, however, are included. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] For occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Annual paid holidays for full-time workers in Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, SC, July 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid holidays	17	1
In establishments providing paid holidays	83	99
Number of holidays:		
1 holiday	3	(1)
2 holidays	1	(1)
3 holidays	2	(1)
4 holidays	1	1
5 holidays	6	13
Plus 1 half day	(1)	(1)
6 holidays	8	10
7 holidays	6	18
Plus 4 half days	(1)	(1)
8 holidays	11	7
Plus 1 half day	2	3
9 holidays	10	23
Plus 1 half day	2	(1)
10 holidays	11	12
11 holidays	13	6
12 holidays	(1)	(1)
13 holidays	3	4
14 holidays	2	1
Average number of paid holidays where provided (in days)	8.2	8.0

[1] Less than 0.5 percent.
Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 3. Paid vacation provisions[1] for full-time workers in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, TX-LA, May 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments not providing paid vacations	5	1
In establishments providing paid vacations	95	99
Length-of-time payment	95	99
By vacation pay provisions for:[2]		
6 months of service:		
Under 1 week	2	3
1 week	19	28
2 weeks	-	3
1 year of service:		
1 week	31	19
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	-
2 weeks	62	81
2 years of service:		
1 week	12	2
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	3	1
2 weeks	80	96
3 years of service:		
1 week	4	2
Over 1 and under 2 weeks	1	1
2 weeks	88	94
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	1	-
3 weeks	-	3
5 years of service:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	42	53
Over 2 and under 3 weeks	2	5
3 weeks	45	41
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
10 years of service:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	14	14
3 weeks	33	53
4 weeks	43	31
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
15 years of service:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	13	14
3 weeks	22	33
Over 3 and under 4 weeks	2	2
4 weeks	53	50
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
20 years of service:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	13	14
3 weeks	9	13
4 weeks	21	36
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
5 weeks	47	36
25 years of service:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	13	14
3 weeks	7	13
4 weeks	13	24
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
5 weeks	51	45
6 weeks	5	2
30 years of service:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	13	14
3 weeks	7	13
4 weeks	13	24
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
5 weeks	20	22
6 weeks	36	25
Maximum vacation available:		
1 week	4	1
2 weeks	13	14
3 weeks	7	13
4 weeks	13	24
Over 4 and under 5 weeks	1	-
5 weeks	20	22
6 weeks	36	25

[1] Includes basic plans only. Excludes plans such as vacation bonus, vacation-savings, and those plans which offer 'extended' or 'sabbatical' benefits beyond basic plans to workers with qualifying lengths of service. Typical of such exclusions are plans in the steel, aluminum, and can industries.

[2] Includes payment other than 'length of time,' such as percentage of annual earnings or flat-sum payments converted to an equivalent time basis; a payment of 2 percent of annual earnings was considered as 1 week's pay. Periods of service were chosen arbitrarily and do not necessarily reflect individual provisions for progression. For example, the changes in proportions at 10 years' service include changes in provisions occurring between 5 and 10 years. Estimates are cumulative. Thus, the proportion eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after 10 years includes those eligible for at least 3 weeks' pay after fewer years of service.

Note: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Table 4. Health, insurance, and pension plans offered to full-time workers in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, TX-LA, May 1985

Item	Production and related workers	Office workers
All full-time workers (in percent)	100	100
In establishments offering at least one of the benefits shown below[1]	97	99
Life insurance	92	98
Noncontributory plans	55	65
Accidental death and dismemberment insurance	64	68
Noncontributory plans	35	45
Sickness and accident insurance or sick leave or both[2]	84	97
Sickness and accident insurance	43	44
Noncontributory plans	27	25
Sick leave (full pay and no waiting period)	41	77
Sick leave (partial pay or waiting period)	20	9
Long-term disability insurance	22	43
Noncontributory plans	19	34
Hospitalization insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	46	45
Surgical insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	46	45
Medical insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	46	45
Major medical insurance	96	99
Noncontributory plans	39	36
Dental insurance	65	60
Noncontributory plans	29	32
Health maintenance organization	7	10
Noncontributory plans	2	2
Retirement pension	80	82
Noncontributory plans	79	79

[1] Estimates listed after type of benefit are for all plans for which at least part of the cost is borne by the employer. 'Noncontributory plans' include only those financed entirely by the employer. Excluded are legally required plans such as workers' compensation, social security, and railroad retirement.

[2] Unduplicated total of workers receiving sick leave or sickness and accident insurance shown separately below. Sick leave plans are limited to those which definitely establish at least the minimum number of days' pay that each employee can expect. Informal sick leave allowances determined on an individual basis are excluded.

Table 5. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro, SC,[1] July 1985

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments				
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey				Studied[4]
				Total[4]		Full-time production and related workers	Full-time office workers	
				Number	Percent			
All divisions	50	322	104	59,338	100	34,461	6,312	29,284
Manufacturing	50	82	32	20,859	35	15,477	1,557	11,795
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	240	72	38,479	65	18,984	4,755	17,489

[1] The Charleston-North Charleston-Walterboro area consists of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester Counties. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes executive, professional, part-time, and other workers excluded from the separate production and office categories.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

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